

San Pitch?
cont.

July 18, 1963

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Gunnison Irrigation Company
BY: Raymond G. Anderson

June 15, 1963, I contacted J. Neil Neilson, President of Gunnison Irrigation Company. A meeting of the Board of Directors was set so I could hear their problem.

According to the Cox Decree of 1936, this company has an 1860 priority for 145.0 cfs. According to Mr. Neilson and the Board members present, they get very little of this water. The river is completely dammed off by upper stream users so all this company gets is what gets back into the channel through seepage, etc. Some of the upper stream users have priorities which are much later than 1860, but they receive the water in preference to this company with an earlier priority.

According to Mr. Neilson and the Board members present, in the early spring before the irrigation season begins, the water which would normally come down the channel is being stored or used to flood lands bordering the river by upper stream users who have no storage right. This is done by damming off the river and forcing the water out over the low lands. Due to this situation, it appears that the storage right of the Gunnison Irrigation Company is not being filled.

The Gunnison Irrigation Company requests that the State Engineer's office appoint a commissioner for their system or allow

them to be under the jurisdiction of the present San Pitch River commissioner. It is the opinion of this company that one commissioner should be appointed for the entire system and that the decree be followed.

It is my recommendation that a more thorough study be made of this system to insure a fair and practical distribution of the water. It appears that in some cases it may be doubtful that the best use is made of the water at the present time.

RGA/vh